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EDUCATION IN THE SOUTH

Roger Williams University—The Citadel of Education for the Black Baptists of the South—A Story of the Work of this Great School.

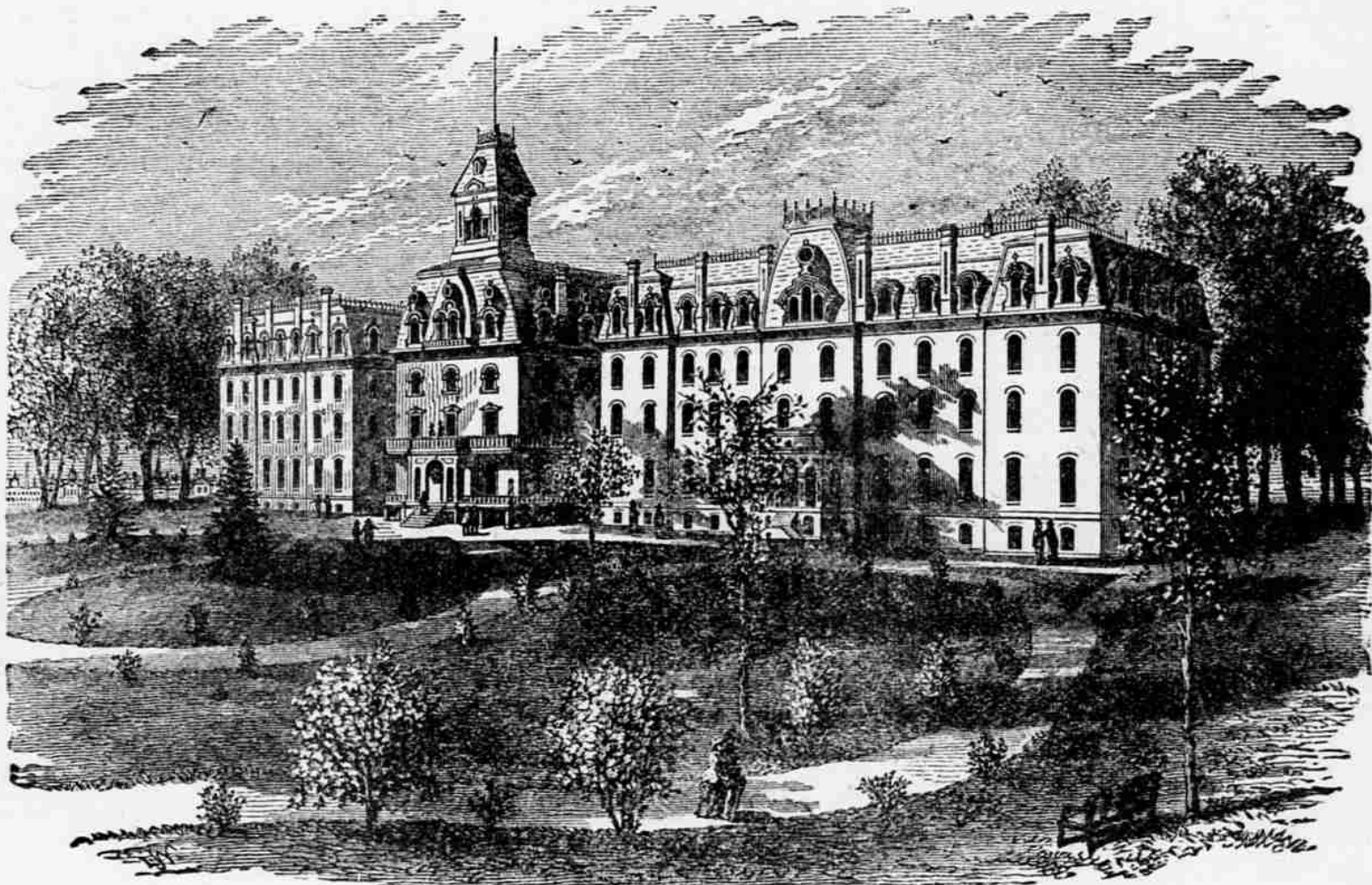
The Colored American presents to its readers in this issue a glimpse of the character and workings of one of the foremost schools of higher education for the race in all the South.

Roger Williams University was founded in the city of Nashville, in 1864, by Rev. D. W. Phillips, D. D., a Baptist minister who came here from New England. Its beginning was small. At first Dr. Phillips taught a class of colored men at his own home. Later he secured a room in the basement of the Spruce Street Baptist church. In 1865 he had formulated his plans for a school, so he went North and raised money enough among the philanthropic white people to purchase a site and erect a wooden building. This building is now the Thirteenth District Colored School, of Nashville. In it Dr. Phillips maintained the school until 1873, when, by the munificent bequest of Nathan Bishop, of New York, the Baptist Home Mission Society was enabled to purchase the present beautiful plot of thirty acres of land on the Hillsboro pike, opposite Garland Ave., and erect a building costing fifty thousand dollars, now used for dormitory, recitation rooms, and chapel. When the property was bought there was a residence on it. This has been enlarged and is the dormitory for young ladies. Since the purchase of the present site two more buildings have been added—Hayward Hall and the president's mansion. All these buildings are of brick. The property is valued at \$150,000.

PURPOSE.

The purpose of this institution of learning at first was to train colored people in the rudiments of an education and to fit them to become teachers and ministers of the gospel. This purpose has not been departed from, but along with that have developed normal, academic, and collegiate courses, and a large number of students have been graduated with the degree of B. S. and A. B. The courses are being broadened and strengthened each year. The English branches are being taught with as much care and skill as formerly, and the Bible has the same place of importance, but collegiate training and instruction in music are receiving increased emphasis. In addition to this instruction, special care is given to teaching the young ladies to improve along domestic lines. To this end, dressmaking is taught by a professional dressmaker, and constant instruction in deportment, hygiene, and general household economy is given.

Although this institution is under the control of the Baptist Home Mission Society, and is, therefore, classed among sectarian institutions of learning, the most liberal spirit prevails, and nothing is said or done to alter the denominational views of any student.



The Main Building—Roger Williams University, Nashville, Tennessee.—A Noted Institution for the Higher Education of Colored Youth.

With this in view, it has been the policy of the school to have no college church, but to allow and urge every student to attend a city church of his or her own denomination. However, the majority of the students are Baptists, and the Baptists of this and sister states look to Roger Williams University with a great deal of pride, for in the past thirty years of her history her influence for good has gone out in all directions and the race has been wonderfully blessed and benefited by many colored men and women who have gone out from her walls.

FACULTY.

The present faculty consists of four teen members as follows: the Rev. P. B. Guernsey, A. M., president, professor of Bible, Homiletics, Biblical Introduction and Moral Science; the Rev. Alfred Owen, D. D., professor Psychology, Economics, Latin, Biblical Interpretation and Theology; the Rev. Herbert H. Smith, A. M., B. D., Church History, Greek and Bible; William Harrison, A. B., Bible, Mathematics, Vocal Music and Public Speaking; Ezekiel Walden, A. B., Sciences and the Bible; Belle L. Pettigrew, A. B., preceptress, Morals, Manners, Hygiene, Temperance and Missions; Emily F. Ames, Latin, Physical Geography and Bible; May Huston, Ph. B., Civics, History, Literature, English and Bible; Lenora Huffman, B. S., Pedagogy, Mathematics, English and Bible; Dixie Erma Williams, B. S., Mathematics, English and Bible; Mrs. P. B. Guernsey, M. D., Literature, Science, History and Bible; Cora Louise Root, French, Vocal and Instrumental Music; Mary J. Tweedie, professional dressmaking etc., Mrs. Cora B. Jones, matron.

All these men and women are thoroughly trained for their work

are in the institution not as a means to something else, but as professional teachers, embracing this opportunity to put their attainments and experience to the utmost account in the services of God and humanity.

It is a common mistake to suppose that any sort of teaching is good enough for beginners. Modern educators are realizing that the important teaching is not the end of a course but at the beginning, that the important thing is not the superstructure but the foundation, without which the superstructure can be neither genuine nor permanent. With this thoroughly modern idea in education, Roger Williams University gives no place to student instructors. All classes, and the humblest members of the lowest class come under the personal instruction and influence of some of the best teachers of the entire faculty.

This school has felt the inevitable misfortune of several unavoidable changes to the Executive within the past few years. The present incumbent, who assumed the presidency in September last, though still a young man, has as will be seen by the sketch following, some eminent qualifications for this responsible position. He has taken up the work with vigor, and has already several important plans for the enlargement and upbuilding of the University. The Home Mission Monthly for January last contained the following:

PROF. GUERNSEY THE PRESIDENT.

The Rev. Peter B. Guernsey, who has just been elected president of Roger Williams University at Nashville, Tenn. was born in a little village in Mitchell County, Ia., November 30th, 1859.

Six years afterwards the family re-

moved to Blossburg, Pa., where the father was employed as station agent for the twenty years following. Here, amid the bustle of a lively railroad and mining town, the lad grew toward manhood, a familiar figure in round house, car shop, freight depot, and on every engine and train.

At seventeen he became telegraph operator for the Tioga and Elmira State Line Railroad Company in their Elmira offices. At the end of six years he had risen to be chief bookkeeper and paymaster's clerk for the same company.

At the age of twenty-two he decided to study for the ministry, and entered upon and completed full college and theological courses at Colgate University, graduating with valedictory honors from college in 1880 and from the seminary in 1892.

During his course of study, Mr. Guernsey felt that he was called to be a foreign missionary and was one of the original one hundred volunteers who at the Northfield, or rather Mt. Hermon meeting in 1886 began the great "Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions."

Upon graduation from the seminary in 1892, he was appointed a missionary of the Union and assigned to the Telugu field, with the City of Madras for his station.

To this place, in 1894, he brought as a bride Miss M. Margaret Armstrong, M. D., who was laboring as a medical missionary in the same general field, stationed at Secunderabad.

The period of foreign service was eminently satisfactory in every way, but most unhappily was of short duration. Mrs. Guernsey's health gave way rapidly.

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